



Come Out and Play! Visitors Guide to Free Family Friendly Programs

April Vacation Week

April 14 – 22, 2018

Fresh air, family fun, and fitness are the perfect combination for your April Vacation Week plans. Come out and play in your Massachusetts State Parks and enjoy a fantastic array of family friendly programs and experiences from Cape Cod to the Berkshires. Enjoy guided experiences or create a park adventure on your own. There is so much to enjoy and explore in your state parks. **Come for a visit!**

Please find below a listing of guided programs, events and Visitor Center special exhibits. Find other activities statewide or plan your own park adventure at www.mass.gov/dcr.

Things to know before you go:

- Most programs are free. If admission is charged, information is in the program description.
- Some parks charge a parking fee. If so, information is in the program description.
- Dress for the weather by wearing sturdy spring footgear and dressing in layers for maximum comfort.
- All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Carry drinking water and a snack.
- Rain may cancel; please call ahead to confirm.
- Reasonable accommodations are available; call in advance to inquire.

Find yourself in a DCR Park

Central Massachusetts

Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park

Meet at Uxbridge Public Library 15 N Main St, Uxbridge

Saturday, April 14 11:00am - 12:00pm

Reading Nature, Uxbridge Library Local Interest Series - Kathryn Parent, Visitor Services Supervisor at Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park, will share her interests as a naturalist. This presentation will describe some techniques to make deeper observations and encourage connections to the natural world by recording thoughts and memories in a sketchbook nature journal. Bring your own nature sketchbooks to show off, or if you are just getting started- learn to make your own. Program is free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. For additional information, please email blackstone.heritage@state.ma.us or call 508-278-7604.

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation

198 Purgatory Road, Sutton, MA

Saturday, April 14 11:00am – 12:00pm

Skull Science - What features help an animal survive? Find clues in skulls and bones at this interactive display program. **Stop by the Pavilion** at any time during the hour to take part. How will your own bones compare to those of the animals that call Purgatory Chasm their home? Suitable for wildlife biologists ages 4 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 508-234-9610 (Programs direct line) or 508-234-3733 (main park phone).

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation

198 Purgatory Road, Sutton, MA

Saturday, April 14 2:00 – 3:00pm

Chasm Hike: Place In Time (history) - Meet the park interpreter at the Visitor Center and get ready to scramble around huge boulders while taking in the mystery of Purgatory Chasm. There are three types of Chasm Hikes (but the route is always the same) – one that focuses on history, one on geology, and one on plants and animals. Choose the one you're most interested in, or find a time to come to all three! This is a strenuous ½-mile hike on the Chasm Loop Trail, suitable for confident hikers ages 6 and above. Wear comfortable clothing, sturdy shoes/boots, and bring water. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Wet conditions will cancel! For more information, call 508-234-9610 (Programs direct line) or 508-234-3733 (main park phone).

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation

198 Purgatory Road, Sutton, MA

Saturday, April 14 4:00 – 4:30pm

Time Traveler Tour - There's a timeline right at our feet! Get an introduction to this unique park as we stroll to historic structures and geological features. Meet at the Visitor Center for this easy half-hour walk, suitable for historians ages 10 and above. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water, sunscreen and insect repellent if desired. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 508-234-9610 (Programs direct line) or 508-234-3733 (main park phone).

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation

345 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA

Saturday, April 14 10:00 – 10:45am

A "Peak" Back In Time - Join us as we journey through time to Wachusett Mountain's past. We'll explore the captivating history of the Summit House, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and so much more. Meet at the Visitor Center for this 45-minute indoor program. For more information, call 978-464-2987.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation**345 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA****Saturday, April 14 1:00 – 3:00pm**

Get Tracking: Solving Animal Mysteries - You, too, can be an animal tracker! Join our Park Interpreter who is an expert animal tracker to learn the basics about the tracks and other clues that wild animals leave behind as they travel through the forest. This presentation will take place indoors; we will then go outside briefly to learn how to make plaster casts of actual animal tracks. Although this program is geared for adults, children above the age of ten are welcome, but a parent/adult guardian must accompany all children. This program will meet at the Visitor Center. For more information, call 978-464-2987.

Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park,**Meet at Rice City Pond Parking Area, 366 East Hartford Ave., Uxbridge****Sunday, April 15 12:00 - 2:00pm**

Lookout to The Valley Hike - Get down to earth and take a geology and nature hike to Lookout Rock! Identify rocks and minerals and see evidence of a range of geologic processes that have shaped the landscape. At the lookout be rewarded with a bird's eye view of the watershed and be inspired to participate in becoming an Earth Day Steward. Bring water, a snack and binoculars to enjoy a short break at the lookout. Wear sturdy shoes for this moderate 3-mile round trip hike along rocky forest trails. All ages able to complete a moderate 3-mile hike welcome. All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. For additional information, please email blackstone.heritage@state.ma.us or call 508-278-7604.

Wachusett Reservoir**Meet at Stillwater Farm, 228 Redemption Rock Road, Sterling****Sunday, April 15 12:00pm**

Vernal Pool Investigation -Vernal pools are a vital part of the ecosystem within the Wachusett Watershed. These pools dry up later in the year, but are teeming with life in the spring. Participants will learn how to identify a vernal pool in the field and search within the pool for organisms that rely on them for habitat. Program is free, and open to the public. For more information, directions, or accessibility questions please contact the Wachusett Watershed Rangers at 978-365-3800 or Jim Lafley at 508-792-7423 x 231 wachusett.rangers@massmail.state.ma.us jim.lafley@state.ma.us

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation**198 Purgatory Road, Sutton, MA****Sunday, April 15 11:00am – 12:00pm**

Rock Detectives - Have you ever wondered where rocks come from? Meet the park interpreter at the Pavilion to find out more about where our rocks have been, and where they are going. Learn about the rock cycle, and see if you have what it takes to be a Rock Detective! Stop by at any time during the hour to take part in this interactive

display program suitable for geologists ages 4 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 508-234-9610 (Programs direct line) or 508-234-3733 (main park phone).

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation

198 Purgatory Road, Sutton, MA

Sunday, April 15 2:00 – 3:00pm

Chasm Hike: Life in the Park (Plants and Animals) - Meet the park interpreter at the Visitor Center and get ready to scramble around huge boulders while taking in the mystery of Purgatory Chasm. There are three types of Chasm Hikes (but the route is always the same) – one that focuses on history, one on geology, and one on plants and animals. Choose the one you're most interested in, or find a time to come to all three! This is a strenuous ½-mile hike on the Chasm Loop Trail, suitable for confident hikers ages 6 and above. Wear comfortable clothing, sturdy shoes/boots, and bring water. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Wet conditions will cancel!** For more information, call 508-234-9610 (Programs direct line) or 508-234-3733 (main park phone).

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation

345 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA

Sunday, April 15 10:00 – 10:45am

Great Hill Detectives - Investigate the mysteries of the mountain as we unwrap pieces of history and learn about their significance in this fun interactive program. Discover the secrets of "The Great Hill" we know as Wachusett Mountain. Drop in for a few minutes or stay for the whole program... it's up to you! Meet inside the Visitor Center (or outside if the weather is nice). No hiking involved. For more information, call 978-464-2987.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation

345 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA

Sunday, April 15 1:00 – 3:00pm

Tree ID Walk - Join the Park Interpreter on a leisurely trail walk at Mount Wachusett. You will learn how to use leaves and bark to identify common species of deciduous and coniferous trees. We will also discuss forest ecology and succession of species to help us understand the makeup of a forest. As an added bonus, we will point out characteristics of old-growth trees to help you learn how to recognize them. The program will meet at the Mount Wachusett State Reservation Visitor Center. We will walk approximately 1 mile, round trip, on moderately strenuous terrain, so be sure to wear adequate footwear. All children must be accompanied by a parent/ adult guardian. For more information, call 978-464-2987.

**Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park,
River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge
Monday, April 16 through Saturday, April 21 available 10am-4pm**

The Busy Tree Storywalk® - Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day by reading the story *The Busy Tree* by Jennifer Ward and illustrated by Lisa Falkenstern. For this self-guided short walk, follow the pages across the bridge, into the field, and ending at a birch tree grove. All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. For additional information, please email blackstone.heritage@state.ma.us or call 508-278-7604.

**Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park,
River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge
Monday, April 16 10:30 - 11:30am**

Music of the Birds - Meet inside River Bend Farm Visitor Center for an interactive bird song story time followed by an easy ½-mile nature walk to identify common songbirds at the park and listen to nature's music. All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. For additional information, please email blackstone.heritage@state.ma.us or call 508-278-7604.

**Purgatory Chasm State Reservation
198 Purgatory Road, Sutton, MA
Monday, April 16 11:00 – 11:30am**

Time Traveler Tour - There's a timeline right at our feet! Get an introduction to this unique park as we stroll to historic structures and geological features. Meet at the Visitor Center for this easy half-hour walk, suitable for historians ages 10 and above. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water, sunscreen and insect repellent if desired. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 508-234-9610 (Programs direct line) or 508-234-3733 (main park phone).

**Purgatory Chasm State Reservation
198 Purgatory Road, Sutton, MA
Monday, April 16 3:00 – 4:30pm**

Glacial Geology Hike - Discover our glacial past with a moderately challenging 1-mile hike along the chasm to Little Purgatory. Explore evidence of the ice that blanketed this park more than 10,000 years ago! **Meet at the Visitor Center.** Suitable for glacial geologists ages 10 and above. Dress for the outdoors, with sturdy shoes/boots. Please bring sunscreen, insect repellent and water if desired. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Wet conditions will cancel.** For more information, call 508-234-9610 (Programs direct line) or 508-234-3733 (main park phone).

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation**198 Purgatory Road, Sutton, MA****Tuesday, April 17 3:30 – 4:30pm**

A Walk in the Park - Hiking trails are the heart of our park system, and getting outdoors is a great way to exercise! Join the park interpreter on a moderately challenging 1-mile hike, and socialize along the way. **Begins at the Visitor Center.** Suitable for hikers ages 8 and above. Dress for the outdoors and wear sturdy shoes/boots. Bring water, sunscreen and insect repellent if desired. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Wet conditions will cancel.** For more information, call 508-234-9610 (Programs direct line) or 508-234-3733 (main park phone).

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation**345 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA****Wednesday, April 18 10:00 – 10:45am**

Great Hill Detectives - Investigate the mysteries of the mountain as we unwrap pieces of history and learn about their significance in this fun interactive program. Discover the secrets of “The Great Hill” we know as Wachusett Mountain. Drop in for a few minutes or stay for the whole program... it’s up to you! Meet inside the Visitor Center (or outside if the weather is nice). No hiking involved. For more information, call 978-464-2987.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation**345 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA****Wednesday, April 18 1:00 – 1:45pm**

The Forest Before Us - Can’t see the forest for the trees? We can help! Join us as we talk about forest growth from meadow to maturity, with a special focus on the unique old growth forests of Wachusett Mountain. Meet at the Visitor Center for this 45-minute indoor program (or outdoors if the weather is nice). No hiking involved. For more information, call 978-464-2987.

Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park,**River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge****Thursday, April 19 12:00 - 12:45pm**

Art at the River - A healthy dose of Nature and Art! Take a short walk through the field to the Blackstone River. Relax a while and make a nature journal to write down your discoveries. Materials provided to make a nature notebook and sun print. All ages welcome, walk is under 1 mile round trip. Meet at Visitor Center. All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. For additional information, please email blackstone.heritage@state.ma.us or call 508-278-7604.

**Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park,
River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge
Thursday, April 19 1:00 - 2:00pm**

Bark & Buds Spring Walk - Show your love for the trees, get outdoors, and take in the sights of springtime as we observe the early stages of leaf –out. Become a nature detective and match up buds and bark to identify trees during this challenging and exciting time of year -before leaf buds fully open! Family friendly 1 mile easy walk, all ages welcome. Meet at Visitor Center. All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. For additional information, please email blackstone.heritage@state.ma.us or call 508-278-7604.

**Wachusett Mountain State Reservation
345 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA**

Thursday, April 19 10:00am – 12:00pm

A Sense of Wonder: Our Natural World - Join the park naturalist for an interactive slideshow presentation on the wonders of nature found in Massachusetts forests. In addition to beautiful photographic images of animals and scenery, the park interpreter will have animal skins, skulls, and plaster casts of animal tracks on hand to showcase the diversity of life found on Wachusett Mountain and throughout our state's forested landscape. The indoor presentation will last approximately one hour, followed by a one-hour walk outdoors appreciating the Wachusett forest. This program will take place at the Visitor Center and will last approximately one hour, followed by a guided trail walk. Total distance for the walk will be less than one mile over moderate terrain, lasting about 45 minutes. For more information, call 978-464-2987.

**Wachusett Mountain State Reservation
345 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA**

Thursday, April 19 1:00 – 1:45pm

Wild! Life on the Mountain - Predator... or prey? Discover the fascinating lives of the "locals" as we talk about wildlife and how animals compete and survive at Wachusett Mountain. Meet inside the Visitor Center for this dynamic 30 to 45-minute program. No hiking involved. For more information, call 978-464-2987.

**Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park,
River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge
Friday, April 20 10:30 - 11:30am**

Nature Story Time - Meet at the Big Red Barn Visitor Center for stories followed by a short nature walk and a take home craft. This free program designed to connect young children to nature runs rain or shine. Wear appropriate clothing for the nature walk portion. Meets indoors during inclement weather. All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. For additional information, please email blackstone.heritage@state.ma.us or call 508-278-7604.

**Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park,
River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge**

Friday, April 20 12:00 - 1:00pm

Wetland Sensory Hike - Take advantage of the spring season before briars and brush obstruct the view. Learn about the wonders of the wetlands while we explore firsthand using each of our senses (with the exception of tasting!) Family friendly 1.5 mile hike, all ages welcome. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather; be prepared to walk through some muddy areas. Meet at Visitor Center. All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. For additional information, please email blackstone.heritage@state.ma.us or call 508-278-7604.

**Blackstone River & Canal Heritage State Park,
River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge**

Friday, April 20 2:00 - 3:00pm

Bats! - Amanda Melinchuk, Bat Research Monitor with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, will share her expertise and talk about the myths and misconceptions surrounding bats; why bats are important; the bats in Massachusetts, threats to bats such as White-nose Syndrome; what you can do to help bats; and information on bat houses. Followed by Q&A. After the program, participants are welcome to help paint a bat house that will be placed in a park. Meet at the Visitor Center. All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. For additional information, please email blackstone.heritage@state.ma.us or call 508-278-7604.

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation

198 Purgatory Road, Sutton, MA

Friday, April 20 11:00am – 12:00pm

Chasm Hike: Place In Time (history) - Meet the park interpreter at the Visitor Center and get ready to scramble around huge boulders while taking in the mystery of Purgatory Chasm. There are three types of Chasm Hikes (but the route is always the same) – one that focuses on history, one on geology, and one on plants and animals. Choose the one you're most interested in, or find a time to come to all three! This is a strenuous ½-mile hike on the Chasm Loop Trail, suitable for confident hikers ages 6 and above. Wear comfortable clothing, sturdy shoes/boots, and bring water. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Wet conditions will cancel! For more information, call 508-234-9610 (Programs direct line) or 508-234-3733 (main park phone).

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation**345 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA****Friday, April 20 10:00 – 11:00am**

KIDleidoscope - Join us for this fun, hands-on, outdoor experience for children 3 – 6 years of age. Siblings are always welcome! You'll hear a story, participate in an activity, and make a craft to take home with you. This program is designed to help young children understand the natural world around them. Parent/adult guardian must accompany all children. This program takes place at the Visitor Center. For more information, call 978-464-2987.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation**345 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA****Friday, April 20 1:00 – 3:00pm**

Get Tracking: Solving Animal Mysteries - You, too, can be an animal tracker! Join our Park Interpreter who is an expert animal tracker to learn the basics about the tracks and other clues that wild animals leave behind as they travel through the forest. This presentation will take place indoors; we will then go outside briefly to learn how to make plaster casts of actual animal tracks. Although this program is geared for adults, children above the age of ten are welcome, but a parent/adult guardian must accompany all children. This program will meet at the Visitor Center. For more information, call 978-464-2987.

Wachusett Reservoir**Meet at Stillwater Farm, 228 Redemption Rock Road, Sterling****Saturday, April 21 9:00am - 12:00pm**

Stonewalls - Have you ever wondered about stonewalls? Come explore the variety of walls in the watershed and discover what their design tells us about their purpose. We'll discuss the history and materials of these structures unique to our part of the country. Meet Jim Lafley at **Stillwater Farm** to begin this journey. Program is free, and open to the public. For more information, directions, or accessibility questions please contact the Wachusett Watershed Rangers at 978-365-3800 or Jim Lafley at 508-792-7423 x 231 wachusett.rangers@massmail.state.ma.us jim.lafley@state.ma.us

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation**198 Purgatory Road, Sutton, MA****Saturday, April 21 11:00am – 12:00pm**

Rock Detectives - Have you ever wondered where rocks come from? Meet the park interpreter at the Pavilion to find out more about where our rocks have been, and where they are going. Learn about the rock cycle, and see if you have what it takes to be a Rock Detective! Stop by at any time during the hour to take part in this interactive display program suitable for geologists ages 4 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 508-234-9610 (Programs direct line) or 508-234-3733 (main park phone).

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation**198 Purgatory Road, Sutton, MA****Saturday, April 21 3:00 – 4:00pm**

Chasm Hike: Life in the Park (Plants and Animals) - Meet the park interpreter at the Visitor Center and get ready to scramble around huge boulders while taking in the mystery of Purgatory Chasm. There are three types of Chasm Hikes (but the route is always the same) – one that focuses on history, one on geology, and one on plants and animals. Choose the one you're most interested in, or find a time to come to all three! This is a strenuous ½-mile hike on the Chasm Loop Trail, suitable for confident hikers ages 6 and above. Wear comfortable clothing, sturdy shoes/boots, and bring water. Children must be accompanied by an adult. **Wet conditions will cancel!** For more information, call 508-234-9610 (Programs direct line) or 508-234-3733 (main park phone).

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation**345 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA****Saturday, April 21 10:00 – 10:45am**

A "Peak" Back In Time - Join us as we journey through time to Wachusett Mountain's past. We'll explore the captivating history of the Summit House, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and so much more. Meet at the Visitor Center for this 45-minute indoor program. For more information, call 978-464-2987.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation**345 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA****Saturday, April 21 1:00 – 3:00pm**

Tree ID Walk - Join the Park Interpreter on a leisurely trail walk at Mount Wachusett. You will learn how to use leaves and bark to identify common species of deciduous and coniferous trees. We will also discuss forest ecology and succession of species to help us understand the makeup of a forest. As an added bonus, we will point out characteristics of old-growth trees to help you learn how to recognize them. The program will meet at the Mount Wachusett State Reservation Visitor Center. We will walk approximately 1 mile, round trip, on moderately strenuous terrain, so be sure to wear adequate footwear. All children must be accompanied by a parent/ adult guardian. The program is free, but there is a \$5 parking fee at the Visitor Center (\$6 for out-of-state plates). For more information, call 978-464-2987.

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation**198 Purgatory Road, Sutton, MA****Sunday, April 22 11:00am – 12:00pm**

Skull Science - What features help an animal survive? Find clues in skulls and bones at this interactive display program. **Stop by the Pavilion** at any time during the hour to take part. How will your own bones compare to those of the animals that call Purgatory Chasm their home? Suitable for wildlife biologists ages 4 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 508-234-9610 (Programs direct line) or 508-234-3733 (main park phone).

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation**198 Purgatory Road, Sutton, MA****Sunday, April 22 2:00 – 3:00pm**

Chasm Hike: Geologic Wonders (geology) - Meet the park interpreter at the Visitor Center and get ready to scramble around huge boulders while taking in the mystery of Purgatory Chasm. There are three types of Chasm Hikes (but the route is always the same) – one that focuses on history, one on geology, and one on plants and animals. Choose the one you're most interested in, or find a time to come to all three! This is a strenuous ½-mile hike on the Chasm Loop Trail, suitable for confident hikers ages 6 and above. Wear comfortable clothing, sturdy shoes/boots, and bring water. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Wet conditions will cancel! For more information, call 508-234-9610 (Programs direct line) or 508-234-3733 (main park phone).

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation**198 Purgatory Road, Sutton, MA****Sunday, April 22 4:00 – 5:00pm**

Colors of the Chasm - Coloring books are for adults too! Making art in a natural setting is a great way to relieve stress and reconnect with your community. Join the park interpreter at the Pavilion near the entrance to the chasm to take part in this relaxing and informal event **designed for adults**. All materials provided, including a coloring book based on Purgatory Chasm's unique landscape. The interpreter will provide background information about each location featured in the coloring book. Feel free to bring your own coloring books, tools, or other visual art projects. For more information, call 508-234-9610 (Programs direct line) or 508-234-3733 (main park phone).

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation**345 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA****Sunday, April 22 10:00 – 10:45am**

Great Hill Detectives - Investigate the mysteries of the mountain as we unwrap pieces of history and learn about their significance in this fun interactive program. Discover the secrets of "The Great Hill" we know as Wachusett Mountain. Drop in for a few minutes or stay for the whole program... it's up to you! Meet inside the Visitor Center (or outside if the weather is nice). No hiking involved. For more information, call 978-464-2987.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation**345 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA****Sunday, April 22 1:00 – 3:00pm**

Get Tracking: Solving Animal Mysteries - You, too, can be an animal tracker! Join our Park Interpreter who is an expert animal tracker to learn the basics about the tracks and other clues that wild animals leave behind as they travel through the forest. This presentation will take place indoors; we will then go outside briefly to learn how to make plaster casts of actual animal tracks. Although this program is geared for adults, children above the age of ten are welcome, but a parent/adult guardian must accompany all children. This program will meet at the Visitor Center. For more information, call 978-464-2987

Northeastern Massachusetts

Middlesex Fells State Reservation StoryWalk® 2018

Saturday, April 14th through Sunday, April 29th

Greenwood park (across from Stone Zoo)

Join DCR's **Step Into Spring StoryWalk®** during April School Vacation Week. Walk a trail, read a story, use your senses and connect with your surroundings. Enjoy this unique opportunity to bring the joy of nature and the magic of reading together outdoors! Our spring vacation book is **Over in the Forest – Come and Take a Peek** Written by *Marianne Berkes and illustrated by Jill Dubin*.

Come and participate in this self Guided StoryWalk for PreK kids with adults!

About the Trail: This StoryWalk® takes place on the Crystal Springs Trail at Greenwood Park (across from Stone Zoo). Trail starts from the Parking Lot behind the granite wall. The trail is an easy walk, about ¼ mile. Trail can accommodate jogging strollers. The Massachusetts **Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)**, **Mass in Motion**, the **North Suburban Child and Family Resource Network** and **Friends of Middlesex Fells** would like to acknowledge and thank *The StoryWalk® Project, created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg-Hubbard Library for their work and inspiration.*

Walden Pond State Reservation

915 Walden Street Concord MA 01742

Saturday, April 14, 1:00-2:00pm

Signs of Spring

Birds are singing, plants are unfurling, and frogs are jumping! Meet us at the **New Visitor Center** for a walk to the Heywood Meadow beaver pond to revel in the arrival of spring. All Children must be accompanied by an adult. Wear sensible shoes that you won't mind getting muddy. Drinking water, bug repellent and sunscreen recommended. The daily parking fee is \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$15 per vehicle for out of state plates. Park hours, inquiries and updates call (978) 396-3254

Walden Pond State Reservation

915 Walden Street Concord MA 01742

Sunday, April 15, 7:30am-9:30am

Free Fishing Clinic

Learn the essentials of fishing for beginners. Equipment and instruction will be provided. No fishing license is required for this program. This free program is open to all visitors. An adult must accompany all children (most appropriate for kids ages 8 & up). Limited to 10 participants per day. Please call the park at **(978) 405-2082** for information and to register, or email walden.pond@state.ma.us **Please meet at the boat ramp.** The daily parking fee is \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$15 per vehicle for out of state plates. Park hours, inquiries and updates call (978) 396-3254

Halibut Point State Park, Gott Avenue, Rockport

Sunday, April 15 8:00 -10:00 a.m.

Birding for Beginners

Join us on a two-hour walk over easy to moderate trails in search of seasonal bird specialties. Beginners are encouraged to attend. Please dress for the weather. For all ages. Bring water. Sunscreen is advised. Trails may be slippery. Please bring your binoculars and if you are able to a spotting scope to share. For more information, contact Peter@caliper.com. Co-sponsored by the Brookline Bird Club

Meet at: Halibut Point State Park, Parking lot, on Gott Avenue in Rockport.

Walden Pond State Reservation

915 Walden Street Concord MA 01742

Monday, April 16, and Wednesday, April 18, 1:00pm-2:00pm

Evolution of the American Flag

Come to the **New Visitor Center** to see our temporary display of American flags from the years of Henry David Thoreau's birth, move to Walden, and death. Explore how the flag changed over time and learn how long the flag has been in its current form. Make your own small flag to take home for the celebration of Patriot's Week! The daily parking fee is \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$15 per vehicle for out of state plates. Park hours, inquiries and updates call (978) 396-3254

Walden Pond State Reservation

915 Walden Street Concord MA 01742

Tuesday, April 17, Thursday, April 19, and Friday, April 20, 11:00am-12:00pm

Thoreau's Stay at Walden

Drop by the **Thoreau house replica** near the **Walden Pond State Reservation** main parking lot to discover from a Park Interpreter how and why Henry David Thoreau lived "a deliberate life" in Walden for two years, two months and two days. We will regale you with tales about Henry's life and the importance of the social and environmental legacies he left behind. This is a program for all ages. The daily parking fee is \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$15 per vehicle for out of state plates. Park hours, inquiries and updates call (978) 396-3254

Revere Beach Reservation

One Eliot Circle, Revere MA

Thursday, April 19 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Spring Beach Safari

Did you know that razor clams can rapidly burrow deeper into the sand when disturbed by predators? Join us to learn about the fascinating lives of animals of the seashore and to discover the new treasures of animal shells that have washed up on the beach.

Meet at: One Eliot Circle, Revere MA (The tan DCR building at the corner of Dolphin Avenue). Accessible by Public Transportation: MBTA Blue line Revere Beach Station, turn right on Revere Beach Boulevard and walk to Eliot Circle, Revere, MA; Visit www.MBTA.com. For more information: 781-485-2804 Ext. 105 **For program**

cancellations phone 978-937-2094 ext. 121, one hour before start time. Inclement Weather Cancels.

Nahant Beach Reservation, Lynn
Friday, April 20 9:00 -10:00 a.m.
Spring Beach Safari

Did you know that the moon snail uses its radula (a tongue-like rasping organ) to bore a small hole in a clam shell and then sucks out the flesh of its victim? Join us to learn about the fascinating lives of animals of the seashore and to discover the new treasures of animal shells that have washed up on the beach. **Meet at:** The James J. Ward Bath House ocean side near the outdoor showers located on the Don John Aliferis Memorial Rotary aka Lynnway Rotary, Lynn MA. For a map with parking locations and information about parking fees visit www.mass.gov/dcr . Please note that the entrance to the parking lot along Nahant Beach is at the South end of the beach. For more information: 781-485-2804 Ext. 105 **For program cancellations phone 978-937-2094 ext. 121, one hour before start time. Inclement Weather Cancels.**

Walden Pond State Reservation, 915 Walden Street Concord MA 01742

Special Event: Birds of Prey
Saturday, April 21, 12:00pm-2:00pm

Walden Pond State Reservation will host **Tom Ricardi** of the **Massachusetts Birds of Prey Rehab Facility** in Conway, MA, for an interactive presentation featuring live birds of prey!

A retired Fish and Wildlife game warden and licensed wildlife rehabilitator. This event is free and open to the public. All children must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Regular parking fees apply. The daily parking fee is \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$15 per vehicle for out of state plates. Park hours, inquiries and updates call (978) 396-3254

Belle Isle Marsh Reservation. East Boston
Saturday, April 21 8:00 -9:00 a.m.
An Oasis for Birds

Discover the abundant birdlife at Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, a restored wildlife sanctuary. We will walk while birding for a distance of a mile on easy level terrain. Some binoculars and a spotting scope will be provided but please bring these items if you have them. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh. **Meet at:** Main Parking lot near the bulletin board, located on Bennington Street, East Boston between address 1236 Bennington St., East Boston and 173 Bennington St., Revere. Parking is on a paved lot and is free of charge. Accessible by public transportation: MBTA Blue line, Beachmont Station. Exit station, turn right, at intersection, cross State Road/Bennington Street, travel right along Bennington Street to park entrance on the left. Visit www.MBTA.com for bus and train information. For more information: 781-485-2804 Ext. 105 **For program cancellations phone 978-937-2094 ext. 121, one hour before start time. Inclement Weather Cancels.**

Winthrop Beach

Winthrop Beach on Winthrop Shore Drive across from Sturgis Street and 62 Winthrop Shore Drive, Winthrop, MA

Saturday, April 21 3:00 -4:00 p.m. (Afternoon)

Avian Delights Observe water birds and learn about their adaptations for survival as we walk on the beach sand for a distance of up to one mile. Terrain can be uneven. Some binoculars and a spotting scope will be provided but please bring these items if you have them. Co-sponsored by the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh. **Meet at:** Winthrop Beach on Winthrop Shore Drive across from Sturgis Street and 62 Winthrop Shore Drive, Winthrop, MA. On street parking is available free of charge. Accessible by Public Transportation: Paul Revere Transportation bus 712 or 713 Point Shirley-Orient Heights, arrive at the Winthrop Beach stop then walk down Sturgis Street, Winthrop MA (If traveling from outside Winthrop, board the bus at the MBTA Orient Heights station on the blue line). Visit www.MBTA.com for bus and train information (schedule, route and fees). For more information: 781-485-2804 Ext. 105 **For program cancellations phone 978-937-2094 ext. 121, one hour before start time. Inclement Weather Cancels.**

Walden Pond State Reservation

915 Walden Street Concord MA 01742

Earth Day Celebration

Sunday, April 22, 10:00am-12:00pm

Help us celebrate Earth Day in the **Visitor Center** by adding to our communal Walden Mural for 2018! Add a craft, a drawing, or an Earth Day wish. The daily parking fee is \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$15 per vehicle for out of state plates. Park hours, inquiries and updates call (978) 396-3254

Sunday, April 22, 12:00pm-2:00pm

Help us rid the reservation of unwanted invasive species. We will be pulling Oriental Bittersweet, Black Swallowwort, glossy buckthorn, and multiflora rose. Dress in work clothes, boots, and bring work gloves if you have them. We'll provide the work tools. Drinking water, bug repellent and sunscreen recommended. Meet us at the **Walden Pond Visitor Center**. The daily parking fee is \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$15 per vehicle for out of state plates. Park hours, inquiries and updates call (978) 396-3254

Southeastern Massachusetts

Waquoit Bay Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway, Falmouth

April 13 – April 21 Daily, dawn to dusk

Spring Storywalk® at Waquoit Bay Reserve Visitor Center – “A Day in the Salt Marsh,” by Kevin Kurtz. Stroll along the bluff to the bay shore while discovering a day in one of the most dynamic habitats on earth: the salt marsh. The story along the trail is a fun-to-read, rhyming verse about the hourly changes in the marsh as the tide comes and goes. Watch the animals that have adapted to this ever-changing environment as they hunt for food or play in the sun, and learn how the marsh grass survives even

when it is covered by salt water twice a day. All ages welcome. Please dress for the outdoors. Trail begins on the bluff in front of the Visitor Center. This is a self-guided activity. The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. For more information, please call (508) 457-0495.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Saturday, April 14 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Kids' Mansion Tour –What would it be like to be a kid living in this mansion? Join the Park interpreter for this 20-minute tour, which will conclude with an old fashioned activity behind the mansion (weather permitting). Great for families with younger kids to explore the first floor of the mansion. Meet in front of the mansion. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Grab a brochure of suggested family hikes from the Visitor Center or the Park Interpreter and enjoy a spring walk at the park before or after your tour. Rain or shine. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Saturday, April 14 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Ames Mansion Tour: Building a Home – Come get a look at the fully furnished interior of the Ames Mansion, including the ornate two-story library. On this 30-minute guided tour of the home, you will learn about the history of the Ames Mansion and the Ames Family. This is a great tour to familiarize yourself with the unique history at Borderland State Park prior to taking another themed mansion tour. First floor only. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion. Meet in front of the mansion. For adults and older children; children must be accompanied by an adult. Grab a brochure of suggested family hikes from the Visitor Center or the Park Interpreter and enjoy a spring walk at the park before or after your tour. Rain or shine. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Sunday, April 15 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Explore Nature: Signs of Spring - As winter thaws into spring, animals and birds become more active and trees and plants begin to bud. Come along on an easy to moderate walk with the park interpreter as we will look for signs of spring. Before the hike, all children will be given a free small nature journal, so along the walk we can take notes! Meet at the visitor center. For children and curious adults. Rain cancels. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Sunday, April 15 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm & 1:00pm – 1:30pm

Ames Mansion Tour: The Ames & Women's Rights - Did you know that 100 years ago, when the Ames Mansion was built, women did not have the right to vote? Oakes and Blanche Ames's involvement in the struggle for women's rights helped pass the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution on August 18, 1920. During this 30-minute guided tour of the first floor of the Ames Mansion, you will learn about their women's

suffrage efforts and view some of Blanche's suffrage artwork and political cartoons. First floor only. For adults and older children. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion. Rain or shine. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Blue Hills Reservation, Houghton's Pond main parking lot, 840 Hillside Street, Milton
Sunday, April 15 **1:00pm – 2:30pm**

Southeastern MA Adult Walking Club – Calling all adults and teens! Join the DCR Walking Club for a moderate walk for adults and teens 16 years and up. We'll be on some hilly terrain, 3+ miles. Walk from St. Moritz Pond to Sawcut Notch, return on Craggs Foot Path. Meet at the Shea Rink parking lot at 651 Willard St. in Quincy. Wear sturdy foot gear and carry drinking water. Unless otherwise noted in the walk description, well-behaved dogs are allowed. Free, no parking fee. We will hike unless the weather creates unsafe conditions. If weather conditions are questionable, please call (617) 698-1802.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton
Sunday, April 15 **2:00 pm – 2:30 pm**

Kids' Mansion Tour –What would it be like to be a kid living in this mansion? Join the Park interpreter for this 20-minute tour, which will conclude with an old fashioned activity behind the mansion (weather permitting). Great for families with younger kids to explore the first floor of the mansion. Meet in front of the mansion. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Grab a brochure of suggested family hikes from the Visitor Center or the Park Interpreter and enjoy a spring walk at the park before or after your tour. Rain or shine. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton
Monday, April 16 **9:00 am – 5:00 pm**

Self-Guided: Make your own Little Green House - Stop by the visitor center, where the staff will have directions and some supplies to make your own little egg carton green house. We ask that you bring your own egg cartons for our supplies are limited. After you make your own little green house, take it home and watch the process from seed to flower. Supplies are limited, while supplies last. One per person. Self-guided craft will be hosted inside the visitor center. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Rain or shine. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Waquoit Bay Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway, Falmouth
Tuesday, April 17 **10:00 am – 11:30 am**

You Are What You Eat - Birds eat a variety of foods from Insects to fish, seeds and even mice. Experiment with beak- like tools and discover the best one for each meal. Learn how a great blue heron captures his food and then design a bird that could share your favorite meal with you. Best for ages 5 to 10. This program includes a story, interactive hands-on activity and a craft. Meet at the Reserve Visitor Center, 131

Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth, MA. Program is free; no parking fee. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For questions or additional information please call the park. 508-457-0495 ext.125.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Tuesday, April 17 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Self-Guided: Make your own Little Green House - Stop by the visitor center, where the staff will have directions and some supplies to make your own little egg carton green house. We ask that you bring your own egg cartons for our supplies are limited. After you make your own little green house, take it home and watch the process from seed to flower. Supplies are limited, while supplies last. One per person. Self-guided craft will be hosted inside the visitor center. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Rain or shine. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Pilgrim Memorial State Park, 79 Water Street, Plymouth

Tuesday, April 17 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Trial, Tragedy, and Transition: Forging a Settlement – From the dangerous voyage on the Mayflower through the difficulty of their first winter, the Pilgrims endured and overcame hardship as they built their new colony in Plymouth. Join us to see how they overcame these challenges on this free, thirty minute guided walking tour. This program is appropriate for adults and children ages 10 and up. Walking tours begin at the park information kiosk and ends on the top of Cole's Hill, across the street from Plymouth Rock. Inclement weather cancels. For more information call (508) 208-0675.

Waquoit Bay Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway, Falmouth

Tuesday, April 17 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

The Natural History of the American Eel on Cape Cod - The American eel has a remarkable life history that is unlike any fish species in North America. They are born in the Sargasso Sea and travel great distances to colonize coastal rivers from Brazil to Greenland. Formerly of high cultural importance in Massachusetts due to their fine taste and availability for sustenance harvest, their populations have declined to historical lows in recent decades. This presentation includes restoration and monitoring efforts at nearby Cape Cod coastal rivers. Presented by Brad Chase, Senior Marine Fisheries Biologist with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. The Waquoit Bay Reserve Visitor Center is located at 131 Waquoit Bay Highway (Route 28) in East Falmouth. Best for adults and teens. Doors open at 6:00pm; coffee and dessert provided. There is no charge for the series; table seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. For additional information, please visit our website at www.waquoitbayreserve.org.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Wednesday, April 18 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Family Spring Walk - After being cooped up inside all winter, grab your hiking shoes and join the park interpreter for a 2.9 mile stroll around Lower Leach Pond. Strollers and leashed dogs are welcome. Great for older children and adults. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the visitor center. Rain will cancel. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Waquoit Bay Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway, Falmouth

Wednesday, April 18 10:00 am – 11:00 am

How Oysters Saved the Bay - Join a park interpreter to discover how shellfish are helping to restore estuaries around the country. Through stories and demonstrations we'll explore how nature works to keep everything in balance. Decorate an oyster shell to take home. The program includes a story, discussion, demonstration, short hike to the beach and a craft. All ages. Please dress for outdoor exploration. If weather is inclement program will take place indoors. Meet at the Reserve Visitor Center, 131 Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth, MA. For questions or additional information please call the park. 508-457-0495 ext.125.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Wednesday, April 18 10:30 am – 11:30 pm

Story Hour inside the Ames Mansion - Join Ms. Jessica, the children's librarian from the Sharon Public Library and the Staff at Borderland inside the Ames Mansion library. After the story, there will be coloring and crafts for the children. Great for children of all ages; children must be accompanied by an adult. The story hour will be held inside the Ames Mansion at Borderland State Park. Park in the main parking lot, located at 259 Massapoag Avenue in North Easton, MA. Rain or shine. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Pilgrim Memorial State Park, 79 Water Street, Plymouth

Wednesday, April 18 11:00 am to 11:30 am

Beyond the Rock: Hidden Stories of Plymouth – There is more to the Pilgrim Story than Plymouth Rock, the Mayflower, and Thanksgiving! On this free, thirty minute, walking tour you will hear some of the less commonly told stories that might provide a new perspective on your thoughts about the Pilgrim and Native history here in Plymouth. This program is appropriate for adults and children ages 10 and up. Walking tours begin at the park information kiosk and ends on the top of Cole's Hill, across the street from Plymouth Rock. Inclement weather cancels. For more information call (508) 208-0675.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Thursday, April 19 10:00 am – 11:00 pm

Live Reptiles! - Marla Isaacs from New England Raptor and Reptile is back at Borderland, and this time she has brought some of her reptile friends. Join us as Marla teaches us about reptiles and see some up close, like an alligator! This is a free event and is sponsored by the Friends of Borderland and the Department of Conservation and

Recreation. Program will be held inside the visitor center. Rain or shine. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Waquoit Bay Reserve, 131 Waquoit Highway, Falmouth

Thursday, April 19 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Land, Sea and Air; Change is Everywhere - Join us for a fun, interactive tour and discover subtle shifts in the environment that are happening all around us. Make observations, take measurements, sample species and learn how scientists track changes in the natural world. Discover ways that you can make observations and collect data in your own backyard. This is an easy guided tour outside with interactive elements throughout. All ages. Inclement weather cancels this program. Meet at the Reserve Visitor Center, 131 Waquoit Highway, East Falmouth, MA. For questions or additional information please call the park. 508-457-0495 ext.125.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Thursday, April 19 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

Kids' Mansion Tour –What would it be like to be a kid living in this mansion? Join the Park interpreter for this 20-minute tour, which will conclude with an old fashioned activity behind the mansion (weather permitting). Great for families with younger kids to explore the first floor of the mansion. Meet in front of the mansion. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Grab a brochure of suggested family hikes from the Visitor Center or the Park Interpreter and enjoy a spring walk at the park before or after your tour. Rain or shine. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Pilgrim Memorial State Park, 79 Water Street, Plymouth

Thursday, April 19 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Life and Death: The Women's Story – Journey through time and experience the monumental passage of the Mayflower through the eyes of those seldom considered: the women. Join us on this free, thirty minute, walking tour of the park and follow their journey across the ocean and their first winter here in Plymouth. Experience their moments of triumph and grief and discover how the women's sacrifice helped give birth to our nation. This program is appropriate for adults and children ages 10 and up. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Walking tours begin at the park information kiosk and ends on the top of Cole's Hill, across the street from Plymouth Rock. Inclement weather cancels. For more information call (508) 208-0675.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Friday, April 20 11:00 am – 11:30 am

Ames Mansion Tour: Of Governors & Generals - Did you know that Blanche and Oakes Ames are related to many politicians and military war heroes? To understand a family, one must look back at previous generations. The Ames Family and their relatives played an intrinsic role in shaping the state of Massachusetts and the Nation. Join the

Park Interpreter for a 30-minute guided tour learning about the Ames family involvement in war and in politics. For adults and older children. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet in front of the Mansion. Rain or shine. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Friday, April 20 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Off the Beaten Path: Let's hike some of the lesser known trails during the winter season at Borderland State Park. Each week we will change up the hike, exploring different trails and areas of the park on these easy to moderate 2-5-mile hikes. Dress for the weather, bring water, and wear winter boots. Hike is easy to moderate in difficulty. For adults and older children. Meet at the visitor center. Inclement weather will cancel, please call ahead to confirm hike. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Saturday, April 20 5:30 am – 7:30 am

Sunrise Hike - Are you a morning person? Want to take a guided walk in the early hours of the morning and watch as the sun rises over Borderland? Join the park interpreter for a 3-mile morning walk. Great for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at visitor center. Rain will cancel. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Saturday, April 21 1:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Ames Mansion Tour: Building a Home – Come get a look at the fully furnished interior of the Ames Mansion, including the ornate two-story library. On this 30-minute guided tour of the home, you will learn about the history of the Ames Mansion and the Ames Family. This is a great tour to familiarize yourself with the unique history at Borderland State Park prior to taking another themed mansion tour. First floor only. Meet in front of the Ames Mansion. Meet in front of the mansion. For adults and older children; children must be accompanied by an adult. Grab a brochure of suggested family hikes from the Visitor Center or the Park Interpreter and enjoy a spring walk at the park before or after your tour. Rain or shine. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Saturday, April 21 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Kids' Mansion Tour –What would it be like to be a kid living in this mansion? Join the Park interpreter for this 20-minute tour, which will conclude with an old fashioned activity behind the mansion (weather permitting). Great for families with younger kids to

explore the first floor of the mansion. Meet in front of the mansion. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Grab a brochure of suggested family hikes from the Visitor Center or the Park Interpreter and enjoy a spring walk at the park before or after your tour. Rain or shine. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Sunday, April 22 12:00 pm

Volunteer Tour Guide Training - Do you love history? Do you love Borderland State Park? The Friends of Borderland are recruiting volunteer tour guides and will be providing a training session on Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 12:00pm inside the Ames Mansion. The Friends of Borderland are looking for both tour guides and ushers and will provide you with all the material you will need to perform a tour. To find 2018 Friends of Borderland tour dates, please visit their website at: FriendsOfBorderland.org. If you have any questions, please call Borderland state park at 508-238-6566 or email Paul at Paul.Clifford2@state.ma.us. Tour guide training is rain or shine inside the Ames Mansion. Rain or shine. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Sunday, April 22 1:00 pm – 1:30pm

Three Floor Mansion Tour - The Friends of Borderland and their volunteer tour guides will be providing one (1) three-story mansion tour. Join us and explore the fully furnished estate of Oakes and Blanche Ames. 15 people max. No reservations will be taken, must meet in front of the mansion by 1:00pm, first 15 people will be guaranteed a spot on the tour. Great for older children and adults. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, please call Borderland at 508-238-6566. Rain or shine. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles.

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Sunday, April 22 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Kids' Mansion Tour –What would it be like to be a kid living in this mansion? Join the Park interpreter for this 20-minute tour, which will conclude with an old fashioned activity behind the mansion (weather permitting). Great for families with younger kids to explore the first floor of the mansion. Meet in front of the mansion. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Grab a brochure of suggested family hikes from the Visitor Center or the Park Interpreter and enjoy a spring walk at the park before or after your tour. Rain or shine. There is a \$5 per MA-vehicle parking fee; \$10 for out-of-state vehicles. For more information, please call (508) 238-6566.

Western Massachusetts

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Fridays in April 10:30-11:30am

Kiddleidoscope Story Hour

4/13: Ducks; 4/20: Bobcats; 4/27 Who Lives in a Tree?

Come learn about our wildlife neighbors who share our home in the Connecticut River

Watershed. Program includes a story, interactive games, and a craft to introduce young children to wildlife along the river. Free. For ages 3-6, accompanied by an adult. Siblings and friends welcome. Meet in the Great Hall. Parking available in the municipal lot off of 2nd Street. For information call (413) 863-3221.

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls
Saturday, April 14—Sunday, April 2 10:00am-4:00pm
April School Vacation Week—Open Every Day All Week!

We are expanding our spring hours this week so stop by the welcome desk for Earth Week investigation stations, habitat diorama scavenger hunts, and games to explore the grounds. Bring your bike and ride along the Canalside Rail Trail. Parking available in the municipal lot off of 2nd Street. For information call (413) 863-3221.

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls
Saturday, April 14 10:30-11:30am

Teaching Creatures presents: Animals of Spring

Hurray for Spring! Join Rae Griffiths of Teaching Creatures as she talks about what animals were doing all winter and what they are up to now that spring has arrived. Meet in the Great Hall, as Rae brings amphibians, reptiles, and a mammal or two to help us all celebrate the new season. This program is free and for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center. Come early as seating may be limited. Parking available in the municipal lot off of 2nd Street. For information call (413) 863-3221.

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls
Friday, April 20 1:00—2:00pm

Meet Toto the Tornado Kitten

After the terrible 2011 tornado in Brimfield, MA, the clean-up crew found an itty-bitty kitten in the wreckage. The courageous kitten was named Toto and nursed back to health by a rescue worker named Jonathan and by others. Jonathan went on to write a children's book about Toto's adventure. Join the author and Toto too for a read-along of *Toto the Tornado Kitten* and celebrate those who help others! Sponsored by Montague Public Libraries. Parking available in the municipal lot off of 2nd Street. For information call (413) 863-3221.

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls
Sunday April 22 10:00am - 2:00pm

Earth Day Open House: Put Yourself in the Big Picture

All ages are welcome to join us for activities and games to help you make a difference in the Connecticut River Watershed. Our exhibits ask: how have people helped or hurt the habitats in our watershed? What will you do to help? Parking available in the municipal lot off of 2nd Street. For information call (413) 863-3221.

Visitor Centers & Special Exhibits

Central Massachusetts

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park

River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge

Visitors' Center Open Daily, 10:00am-4:00pm

Following the Plough Exhibit at the River Bend Farm Visitor Center - The Visitors' Center is open from 10am-4pm daily. The exhibit "Following the Plough" explores the story of the Blackstone Valley and its communities from pre-European settlement through European style agricultural development, industrialization, and into today. Guided tours for groups with advance notice. Free Admission. Accessible.

During your visit to Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, you might want to try the self-guided **Healthy Heart Towpath Walk**: Staying active is a healthy life choice and what better place than in a beautiful state park. Portions of the Blackstone Canal Towpath are designated as an easy 1 mile Healthy Heart Hike. Pick up a self-guided towpath brochure in the visitor center and get out often for this enjoyable walk that offers diverse scenery year-round. Dress for the weather. Trails may be snowy or icy during winter. For more information, please call 508-278-7604.

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation

Purgatory Chasm Visitor Center, Purgatory Road, Sutton

Visitors' Center School Vacation Week hours:

Visitors' Center open days will vary. Please call ahead. On days the Visitor's Center is open, it will be open from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

The Chasm is closed when there is ice and snow, so please call ahead to see if the Chasm is open. All other trails in the park are open.

At the Visitors' Center you can find trail maps, general information about Purgatory Chasm, educational displays, and the park's main office. Restrooms are available inside when the Visitors' Center is open. Portable toilets are available in the Visitors' Center parking lot if the Visitors' Center is closed. Please call the Visitor's Center for information about interpretive programs being held during April school vacation week as well as the month of April. For more information, please call 508-234-3733.

Quabbin Reservoir

485 Ware Road (Rte. 9), Belchertown

Open Monday- Friday 8:30am -4:30pm and 9:00am-4:30 pm on weekends.

Visitor Center & Exhibits Enjoy displays about the history of the Quabbin Valley and

how the reservoir was built. Learn about the history, wildlife, and watershed management at the Quabbin, and some of the research being done there. Visitors may request viewing one of several short videos about the area as well. For more information, please call 413-323-7221.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation

John Hitchcock Visitor Center, 345 Mountain Road, Princeton

Visitor Center Open daily, 8:00am – 3:30pm (hours may vary based on staffing)

The Visitor Center highlights the story of Wachusett Mountain through exhibits focused on natural and cultural history and the features of the mountain. The Visitor Center is wheelchair accessible. Free admission. Restrooms are available in the Visitor Center during building's open hours. Portable toilets are available in the Visitor Center parking lot if the Visitor Center is closed. For more information, please call 978-464-2987.

Northeastern Massachusetts

Walden Pond State Reservation

915 Walden Street Concord MA 01742

Daily 10:00am-4:00pm

Visit the New **Walden Pond Visitor Center**. See our new exhibits and hear from a park interpreter about Henry David Thoreau's legacy. Get a look at our Gold LEED-Certified, earth-friendly, energy efficient building that was constructed from sustainable materials. View our 22-minute film "Walden," produced by Ken Burns, on Thoreau's legacy. The daily parking fee is \$8 per vehicle with MA plates, \$15 per vehicle for out of state plates. Park hours, inquiries and updates call (978) 396-3254

Lawrence Heritage State Park

Visitors Center is located at 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence, MA 01840

Open daily 9:00a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Come view our "City of Workers" permanent exhibit on the history of Lawrence. Learn about Lawrence's founding and development... about the textile mills, waterpower, immigration, and the "Bread & Roses" Strike. For information, reservations, or directions, call us at 978-794-1655, or see

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/lwhp.htm>.

Special Exhibit: April 5- April 27: Lawrence Public Schools District- Wide Art Exhibit
Students in grades Pre K-12 will have art work on display. Please join us in celebrating the artistic talent of our youth!

Southeastern Massachusetts

Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave, North Easton

Open Daily, 8:00am-4:00pm

Visitor Center "Ames Family History Gallery" -Borderland is one of the most historically significant tracts of publicly owned land in the Commonwealth. Created in

the early 1900s by artist and suffragist Blanche Ames and her botanist husband Oakes, Borderland offers many of the same pleasures that the Ames family enjoyed. Learn about the family through the park's exhibits. Then enjoy the spring recreational experiences once enjoyed by this famous family at their "Borderland." A variety of self-guided walk brochures are available in the Visitor Center vestibule. Accessible. For more information or directions, please call (508) 238-6566. There is a \$5.00 per vehicle parking fee; \$10.00 for out-of-state vehicles.

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, 131 Waquoit Hwy (Rte. 28), E. Falmouth

Tuesday-Friday, 10:00am-5:00pm

The Waquoit Bay Reserve –Come in this spring and explore our exhibits along with a host of self-guided, hands-on activities including scent bottles, leaf rubbings, sound detectives, animal life cycles and more. Accessible. For more information or directions, please call (508) 457-0495 x125.

Western Massachusetts

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Saturday, April 14—Sunday, April 2 10:00am-4:00pm

April School Vacation Week—Open Every Day All Week!

We are expanding our spring hours this week so stop by the welcome desk for Earth Week investigation stations, habitat diorama scavenger hunts, and games to explore the grounds. Bring your bike and ride along the Canalside Rail Trail. Parking available in the municipal lot off of 2nd Street. For information call (413) 863-3221.